

2020-B-07242

Stefanie Rixecker
Chief Executive
Environment Canterbury
s 9(2)(a)

Dear Stephanie

COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-Track Consenting) Act 2020 – Faringdon South West and South East Development – Comments sought

In the week commencing 26 October 2020, the Minister for the Environment (the Minister) received an application from Hughes Developments Limited to refer the above project (the Project) to an expert consenting panel for consideration under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020 (FTCA).

The Project is described below and a copy of the application is attached.

Faringdon South West and South East Development

The Project is to subdivide two blocks of land covering around 97.74 hectares to enable the development of up to 1,151 new residential units and two neighbourhood commercial centres, and construct associated infrastructure in Rolleston. Delivery of these homes and commercial centres will contribute approximately \$668 million to the local economy and support approximately 9,800 full-time equivalent jobs over a 7-year planning and construction period (2021 - 2028).

Under delegated authority from the Minister, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application pursuant to section 21(2) of the FTCA (a template is attached for this purpose). Comment is sought on the specific matters outlined in the table on the next page, and any further information you consider relevant to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the Project to an expert consenting panel. If it is more efficient to discuss this application, please contact me or my team at fasttrackconsenting@mfe.govt.nz and we will make ourselves available for a discussion with you.

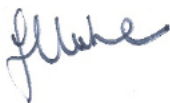
Specific questions on the application

1. Are there any reasons that you consider it more appropriate for the Project, or part of the Project, to proceed through existing Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) consenting processes rather than the processes in the FTCA?
2. What is the anticipated timeframe for changes to Chapter 6 of the operative CRPS and what is the likely impact of the changes on this application?
3. Does the applicant, or a company owned by the applicant, have any environmental regulatory compliance history in your Region?

Also note that if the Minister decides to refer the Project to a panel, you will have the opportunity to nominate a local authority representative (who could be a councillor or independent hearings commissioner) to sit on the panel and determine the resource consent applications for the Project. The applicant will provide a detailed assessment of environmental effects at this next stage and you will have the opportunity to provide further comments to the panel. The Ministry for the Environment has prepared guidance on local authority involvement with fast-track consenting projects which you can access on the Ministry for the Environment website.

Please provide your comments via return email within 10 working days so that the Minister can take your comments into consideration when deciding on the application.

Yours sincerely



Sara Clarke
Manager, Fast-Track Consenting Team

Enclosures:

- A. Application to refer the Faringdon South West and South East Development Project to an expert consenting panel including supporting information
- B. Response template for written comments

cc: Virginia Loughnan, Consents Manager, Environment Canterbury,
s 9(2)(a)